AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s) (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

Page 1, line 2, add the following paragraphs:

Related Application

This application claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/FR2003/002875 filed October 1, 2003, and French Patent Application No. 02/12159 filed October 2, 2002.

Technical Field

Page 1, line 10, add the following heading:

Background of the Invention

Page 1, lines 11-21:

~~Such devices~~ Hydrophones and data acquisition units are used to implement methods for the exploration of the deepest layers of the earth's crust, especially in the context of petroleum exploration. The devices are placed on the ocean bottom, after which a sonic wave is emitted at regular intervals from the surface. The recording of the response from the ocean bottom to this acoustic wave is used to determine the disposition of the geological layers and interpret, for example, their nature. The measured data can also be used to determine the past and foresee future development.

Page 4, line 5, add the following heading:

Summary of the Invention

Page 6, lines 7-9:

Other features and advantages of the invention shall appear from the following detailed description, made with reference to the appended drawings. ~~dryness, of which:~~

Page 6, line 10, add the following heading:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 6, line 24, add the following heading:

Detailed Description

In the Abstract

Please substitute the following amended Abstract for the Abstract as currently pending (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

ABSTRACT

The invention concerns an ocean bottom station, such as an ocean bottom hydrophone (OBH) or an ocean bottom seismometer (OBS), designed to perform in situ measurements, comprising a support structure ~~(2, 3)~~ with positive buoyancy where-with is associated at least on detachable ballast ~~(4)~~ to bring said support structure to the ocean bottom during a measurement session, the support structure including at least one hydrophone ~~(6)~~, one data acquisition unit ~~(7)~~ for recording measurement data from the hydrophone and a device for releasing said detachable ballast. The invention is characterized in that the data acquisition unit ~~(7)~~ serves to control the releasing device in response to an acoustic release command received by the hydrophone ~~(6)~~.